

## ATTENTION HOMES' PROFILE



Attention Homes' mission is to provide residential treatment, counseling and safe shelter to at-risk youth. Our goal is to help teens in crisis become healthy, productive members of our community.

Attention Homes was founded in 1966 by Judge Horace Holmes, probation officer John Hargadine, a First United Methodist Church Bible Study, and concerned community members who saw the need to provide "Attention, not Detention" to troubled youth. They believed there needed to be an alternative to institutionalization or detention so that children would have a safety net and a chance to thrive rather than being placed in a locked facility. In its 44-year history Attention Homes has served 6,000 children in crisis by ensuring safety and meeting basic needs, by providing counseling and teaching life skills and by helping at-risk youth choose a positive future. Attention Homes was one of the first nonprofits of its kind in the United States. The innovation of the program drew groups from over 25 localities to travel to Boulder to visit the homes. In fact, more than 200 homes were started across the U.S. and internationally based on the Attention Homes model.

Today Attention Homes has two programs for at-risk youth: Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) and Adolescent Residential Care (RES).

Our RHY provides street outreach, day drop-in and emergency shelter services to homeless teens under the age of 18. The goal of this program is to reduce youth homelessness through building trust and establishing relationships with them and increasing access to services that move teens from living on the streets or in shelter toward stable, long-term housing and/or family reunification. An average of 150-250 runaway and homeless teens live on the streets of Boulder County at any given time. Our services to these teens open in November, 2010.

Our RES program operates three tracks: respite/extended care, sober living and transitional living. The goal of this program is to provide abused, neglected, delinquent, troubled and/or recovering teens with temporary residential care and treatment services to help them transition through their crisis and to a long-term and safe placement or emancipation. This program cares for an average of 80 boys and girls per year who stay with us an average of 45 days. Referrals to this program come primarily through county social services departments. Families may also self-refer and services are provided regardless of ability to pay.

Youth in the care of Attention Homes receive the following core services:

- Shelter
- Safety, stability, security and 24-hour supervision in a highly structured home-like setting
- Healthy meals, clothing and hygiene
- Life skills lessons and positive adult role models
- Case management
- Access to accredited education, recreational activities, community service projects, as well as medical, dental and mental health care
- Individual, group and family counseling and coaching
- Support in accessing part-time employment
- "Choices," behavior acquisition program, which provides youth the opportunity to learn responsible decision-making skills by taking ownership for their choices.
- A team of experienced counselors, clinicians, volunteers, county case workers and other service providers helping youth move through their troubles and toward treatment goals.

Attention Homes relies on our community to support our programs with donations and volunteerism. If you, your family or your group are interested in becoming involved with our mission, please contact us at 303.447.1206 or [contactAH@attentionhomes.org](mailto:contactAH@attentionhomes.org). You may also visit us at [www.attentionhomes.org](http://www.attentionhomes.org).